

## Career Awareness Activities

---



Resource Network

Many times, children choose careers based on what they see on television or what their parents do for a living.

Help your child learn about a broad range of careers by helping your child make connections between schoolwork or home tasks, and skills in the work place.

Help your child think about chores and how skills he or she has learned in school are needed to complete those chores. You can use such activities as:

- Paying bills
- Buying groceries
- Sending birthday cards and letters
- Getting appliances repaired
- Shopping for clothing
- Organizing family activities

Ask your child to **create a timeline** for his or her school day. Then ask your child to think about how his or her workday may be similar or different.

Put names of different careers in a bowl. Each month, have your child draw the name of a career out of the bowl. During the month, have your child collect **information about that career**. Reward your child at the end of the month for collecting the information and discuss the career with him or her.

### ► THE PARENT SERIES



[www.utahcte.org](http://www.utahcte.org)

**UCRN** Utah Career Resource Network  
1-800-733-7887  
[www.utahcareers.info](http://www.utahcareers.info)

Get Your Hands On Quality Career Information

# Why is it Important to get an Early Start?

- **If your child likes art,** discuss how adults use art to design houses, clothing, magazine ads, movie sets, and even toys. Explain that art is also used to draw cartoons, arrange flowers, and take photos for magazines and books.
- **If your child likes to be outdoors,** discuss careers such as landscape architecture, forestry, marine biology, and commercial fishing.
- **If your child is very social,** discuss careers such as a teacher, a lawyer, a customer service representative, a receptionist, a hotel manager, or a convention planner.
- **If your child likes to help people,** talk about careers such as working as a nurse, doctor, athletic trainer, family counselor, or child care worker.
- **If your child loves math,** discuss careers such as an accountant, a computer programmer, an engineer, or a statistician. Remind your child that almost all careers use basic math, so it is a very important skill to have.

Many times, children choose careers based on what they see on television or what their parents do for a living. Help your child learn about a broad range of careers, and he or she will have more information when it comes time to choose a career. To help your child understand how his or her schoolwork will be used in a future career, you can explain the skills workers use in their jobs.

By talking with your child about the link between school and careers, you will help your child understand that school success can open doors to his or her ideal career.

## HOW DO I START TALKING TO MY CHILD ABOUT CAREERS?

One way to start talking to your elementary-aged child about careers is to talk about the things that interest your child. Then, point out how these items of interest relate to activities that adults do.

- **If your child likes art,** discuss how adults use art to design houses, clothing, magazine ads, movie sets, and even toys. Explain that art is also used to draw cartoons, arrange flowers, and take photos for magazines and books.
- **If your child likes to be outdoors,** discuss careers such as landscape architecture, forestry, marine biology, and commercial fishing.
- **If your child is very social,** discuss careers such as a teacher, a lawyer, a customer service representative, a receptionist, a hotel manager, or a convention planner.
- **If your child likes to help people,** talk about careers such as working as a nurse, doctor, athletic trainer, family counselor, or child care worker.
- **If your child loves math,** discuss careers such as an accountant, a computer programmer, an engineer, or a statistician. Remind your child that almost all careers use basic math, so it is a very important skill to have.
- **If your child likes to keep others safe,** talk about a career as a police officer, a forensic scientist, a detective, an investigator, a parole officer, a security guard, or a bailiff.

## WHAT ARE OTHER CAREER SKILLS FOR MY ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILD?

Elementary school is the time when your child should start learning about responsibility, cooperation, and problem solving. Here are some ways you can help your child learn these valuable skills for school and for work.

- Help your child develop a positive attitude about his or her life.
- Talk about what your child likes and dislikes, and explain that every person has different likes and dislikes.
- Teach your child to accept other children's ideas, even if they are different from your child's.
- Have your child think about how his or her behavior might affect the feelings of other children.
- Resolve conflicts in a positive manner.
- Talk to your child about how he or she is feeling,

- **and teach your child to deal with his or her emotions in a healthy manner.**
- **Have your family work as a team to complete a home project.**
- **When your child makes a mistake, work to correct the mistake and to prevent the same mistake from happening again.**
- **Take your child to school on time, and teach your child the importance of punctuality.**
- **Involve your child in real-world examples of decision-making. Talk to your child about how his or her decisions impact other people.**
- **Explain why work is important—not only for a source of income, but also as a way to contribute to society.**

## WORK-BASED LEARNING IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM.

Work-based learning is integrated and grade-appropriate at all levels of education. Career awareness, exploration, orientation, and preparation activities are coordinated with school-based learning activities.

- **Awareness:** In grades K–6, students are introduced to a multitude of careers through career days (such as tool days and vehicle days), workplace visits, job shadowing, and guest speakers.
- **Exploration:** In grades 7–8, students explore career options in a particular field of work through career fairs, field studies, job shadowing, and guest speakers.
- **Orientation:** In grades 9–10, students become oriented with a specific career(s) through career fairs, job shadowing, and guest speakers.
- **Preparation:** In grades 11–12, students prepare for a career of their choosing through internships, apprenticeships, clinical work experiences, and cooperative work experiences.

You can support work-based learning experiences in your child's classroom by volunteering - be a guest speaker, participate in a career fair, host a student intern, and more.